

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1944

KIDDERMINSTER :
HEPWORTH PRESS, LIMITED.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1944

Kidderminster Rural District Council.

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COUNCILLOR A. E. HALFORD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE.

COUNCILLOR T. J. BEESTON.

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„ H. MORRIS.

„ G. F. PRATT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: G. J. EADY, L.M.S.S.A.
(Lond.)

SANITARY INSPECTOR: R. S. PORTER, Cert. S.I.J.B.,
C.R.San.I. (Cert. Meat and
Foods Inspector).

PUBLIC HEALTH CLERK: MISS J. E. MANTLE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1944.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1944	...	...	...	...	9,840
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944	...				2,860
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£58,525
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£254/0/6

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the District are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry at Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at Iron Works in the District.

Vital Statistics.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births	Legitimate	73	76	149
	Illegitimate	7	7	14
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				16.5
Birth Rate for 1943				16.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales				17.6
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Still Births	Legitimate	1	0	1
	Illegitimate	2	0	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births ...				18.0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births, 1943 ...				30.6
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths		53	55	108
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				10.9
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1943				12.2
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:				
Deaths.				
Puerperal Sepsis ...		0		
Other Puerperal Causes ...		0		
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—				
All Infants per 1,000 live births				18.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...				20.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...				0

There were 3 deaths of Infants under one year of age, as against 6 in 1943.

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 46 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

The total deaths registered were 108 as against 121 in 1943.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc. ...	—	—
Measles ...	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—
Influenza ...	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	1	1
Other Tuberculosis ...	—	1
Syphilis ...	—	2
Cancer ...	3	7
Diabetes ...	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ...	4	6
Heart Disease ...	23	17
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	2
Bronchitis ...	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	5	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—
Peptic Ulcer ...	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	—	—
Appendicitis ...	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...	1	1
Suicide ...	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents ...	3	0
Other Violence ...	1	—
Other Defined Causes ...	3	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—
Special Causes:—		
Smallpox ...	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—
Polioencephalitis ...	—	—
	53	55

Average Age at Death 68.8 years.

Males 67.4 years.

Females 69.9 years.

Zymotic Diseases.

There was one death from Influenza. Six cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Area, but all recovered.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the examination of clinical material, water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee. The ambulance is stationed at the Hospital and is available at all hours.

For other cases an Ambulance Service is provided by the Kidderminster Corporation.

Nursing in the Home.

There are four District Nurses in the Area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. A fifth District Nurse deals with a small portion of the Area, and there are also two other Midwives.

The work of these District Nurses has been very well carried out.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are two Voluntary Infant Welfare Centres in the Area, one at Far Forest, which is held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, and one at Cookley, which is held on the first Friday of each month.

There are also Infant Welfare Centres at Hagley and Wribbenhall, which many children from this Area attend.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area.

For Infectious Diseases the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is also available.

Scabies cases are treated at the Worcestershire County Council Special Hospital for Scabies Cases at Tolladine.

Tuberculosis.

This work is undertaken by the Worcestershire County Council, who send patients requiring Sanatorium treatment to Knightwick, Hill Top (Bromsgrove) and Hayley Green. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, when Dr. Sidney Deaner attends.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately sixty miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural Area is supplied by:—(1) The Council's borehole at Cookley. (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct. (3) The Stourbridge Water Board. The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

Proportion of Houses Supplied from Public Mains.

Direct to Houses	67.22%
By means of Standpipes	12.63%
Total ...	79.85%

Proportion of Population Supplied from Public Mains.

Direct to Houses	67.12%
By means of Standpipes	12.74%
Total ...	79.86%

At regular intervals throughout the year, the Sanitary Inspector submitted samples of water from the Council's borehole at Cookley for chemical and bacteriological examination by the County Analyst. Four bacteriological and chemical analyses were made, and all the samples were satisfactory.

A sample of the water supplied from the Elan Aqueduct was taken, the analysis of which showed that the source of supply and the condition of the piping was satisfactory.

A sample was taken from the Stourbridge Water Board supply, which also proved to be satisfactory.

In common with the rest of the country, there has been an apparent shortage of water in private wells throughout the district.

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Borehole water contained in a W. Qt. bottle. Marked Cookley Borehole. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on the 21st June, 1944.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically, with the following results:—

Physical Characters.	Clear.	
Odour	None.	
Deposit	None.	pH 7.3.

Chemical Examination. Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	28
Solids in Solution after Ignition	...	...	26
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	4
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	13
Hardness—Temporary	...	...	6.
Hardness—Total	...	...	19
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.001
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	0.013
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected
Free Chlorine on receipt	...	...	None

Note:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	1 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	5 per one m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
Streptococci	...	...	Absent.
Opinion—The sample is fit for drinking.			

(Signed)

H. E. MONK,
County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

Report of County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Tap water contained in a W. Qt. bottle. Marked Birmingham Water from Rock. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, of Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 9th August, 1944.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically, with the following results:—

Physical Characters.	Slight yellow.
Odour	None
Deposit	None. pH 9.4.

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°)	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	6
Solids in Solution after Ignition	...	...	4
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	2
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	2.0
Hardness—Temporary	...	...	0.5
Hardness—Total	...	...	2.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	..	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	0.2
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected
Free Chlorine on receipt	...	...	None

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	2 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	20 per one m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
Streptococci	...	...	Absent.

Opinion—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed)

H. E. MONK,

County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

Report of County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Tap water contained in a W. Qt. bottle. Marked Stourbridge Water Board. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, of Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 14th April, 1944.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically, with the following results:—

Physical Characters.	Clear.	
Odour	None.	
Deposit	None.	pH. 7.5

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	54
Solids in Solution after Ignition	...	...	47
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	9.8
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	16
Hardness—Temporary	...	...	24
Hardness—Total	...	...	40
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.002
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	None
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	Trace
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	None
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected

Note:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	4 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	4 per one m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
Streptococci	...	...	Absent.
Opinion—The sample is fit for drinking.			

(Signed)

H. E. MONK,
County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council have been fully alive to their responsibilities in this direction, and in November I submitted the joint report of the Sanitary Inspector and myself on the present situation in the District.

We recommended that Sewerage Schemes should be provided in the following areas:—

- (a) Parish of Wolverley.
- (b) Village of Churchill.
- (c) Parish of Broome.
- (d) Village of Chaddesley Corbett.
- (e) Village of Arley.

We further recommended that consideration should be given to the question of improving arrangements in the following areas:—

Mustow Green.
Harvington.
Shenstone.
Kingsford.
Shatterford.
Callow Hill.
Drayton.

At the time of this Annual Report work is proceeding on the preparation of Schemes for the Parish of Wolverley, the Village of Churchill, the Village of Chaddesley Corbett and the districts of Mustow Green, Harvington and Shenstone.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no serious pollution to rivers and streams during the year, and I am looking forward to the time when the small amount of pollution, which at present is unavoidable, may be eliminated by the proposed Sewerage Schemes.

Public Cleansing.

The scavenging is carried out by contract and is dealt with by tipping. The Sanitary Inspector has devoted much time and thought to this question. (See Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Camping Sites.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The only time when we have any considerable numbers of campers in our District is during the August Bank Holiday Week, and during this time the camps are visited.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The majority of the schools are connected with the Council's water supply. An acute shortage of water is felt at the Hill Pool Top School, Chaddesley Corbett, but I am pleased to be able to report that negotiations are proceeding to deal with the matter.

There were no school closures during the year.

When a case occurs of a notifiable infectious disease in a house where there are school children, the school or schools which these children attend are notified and a request is made for the scholars to be excluded from school for a specified time. Diphtheria contacts have nose and throat swabs taken prior to resuming school.

HOUSING.**A.—STATISTICS.****1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	115
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	134
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	110
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	115
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	17
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	91

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	13
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	4
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By Owners | 4 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit | Nil |

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Several Houses are overcrowded due to war-time conditions.

SECTION E.**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

- (a) Milk Supply.
- (b) Meat and other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases. Scarlet Fever.

There were 13 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 24 in 1943. All were admitted to Hospital.

Diphtheria.

There were 6 cases of Diphtheria during the year as against none in 1943, 4 of these cases arising among children in the Smethwick School Camp. One of the other two cases was a woman of 36 years. All the cases were removed to Isolation Hospital and all recovered.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Rural District Council.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The necessity for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria has been carefully explained and strongly urged upon parents throughout the area, and the response has been remarkably good.

At the close of the year 84.8 per cent. of the children under five years of age had received complete treatment and 99 per cent. of the children between five and fifteen years of age.

The notifiable infectious diseases are set out in the following table:—

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	4	None	None
Scarlet Fever	13	13	None
Diphtheria	6	6	None
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	None	None	None
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	None	None	None
Erysipelas	None	None	None
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	None
Pneumonia	3	None	7

Of the 7 deaths, 5 were transferable deaths (in), and the other 2 cases were not notified.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1944.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS.											Total No. of Cases
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	
Scarlet Fever			1		2	9			1			13
Diphtheria ...				1			4			1		6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...												
Pneumonia ...									1	2		3
Erysipelas ...												
			1	1	2	9	4		2	3		22

Prevention of Blindness.

The Rural District Council have not taken any action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis.

Seven cases were notified during the year as against three in 1943.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—								
1—				1				1
5—								
15—		1						
25—	1	1	1			2		
35—								
45—		1						
55—	1							
65—								
and upwards								
	2	3	1	1		2		1

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Veneral Disease.

I have received no information of Veneral Disease arising in or contracted from persons living in this area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

In a Rural Area, the establishment and management of an Infant Welfare Centre produce problems which do not arise in Urban Districts.

There is usually no building designed for such a purpose, such as a School Clinic, and the best accommodation which is obtainable is generally the Village Hall or Parish Room. Such buildings are, of course, used for many purposes and there arises the question as to the days upon which the room will be available. The choice of the day on which the Centre shall operate is a very important matter. The problem of transport has to be considered and also the occupations and habits of the residents. If the Centre can be established in a small market town, then the market day is the most suitable day to choose, because on that day special 'buses and trains are run, and people coming to the market in their own conveyances will frequently bring in mothers and their babies with them. But in the villages the market day of a neighbouring town is a bad day to choose, for many of the mothers will have the habit of going to the market on that day.

A village Centre has also to supply the needs of a large area, and real enthusiasm for the work has to be acquired and fostered in order to obtain good results.

I have been extremely fortunate in being able to secure at all my Infant Welfare Centres the very active and generous assistance of enthusiastic and capable voluntary workers, and their good work, interest and kindness has been a considerable factor in establishing a happy atmosphere. As we do not own these buildings, it is not always possible to store our equipment, or much of it, in the hall, and so we have to bring many things with us.

It is sometimes a disputed question as to whether or not other matters than the care of infants should be dealt with during these sessions. I hold the opinion that advice and assistance should never be refused on such occasions, though too much time should not be taken from the normal work of the Centre. Thus a child

sent for an opinion by a School Teacher can easily be dealt with, a complaint about some adverse housing condition listened to, and a small number of children can be immunised against Diphtheria without unduly interfering with the normal work.

Good results from Infant Welfare work can only be obtained by the constant implantation of correct ideas and of the reasons for employing the practices recommended, and in the absence of a very sympathetic relationship with the Mothers, and of a proper understanding by them of the reasons for the advice given, and of the benefits to be gained by following such advice, no Doctor is likely to find that his suggestions have been followed for very long.

Perhaps one of the best instances of this is in the matter of Cod Liver Oil. It will be found commonly that mothers have a somewhat hazy idea that Cod Liver Oil should be given to babies, or perhaps to children up to the age of five years. When questioned as to the reason they may say that it prevents Rickets or is good for the teeth. But they need to be told again and again of the Vitamin which it contains, of the various forms in which this Vitamin can be obtained, of the difference between good hard bone and gristle, of straight limbs and yielding bones, of knobbly knees and bandy legs. They need to be told that the skeleton of the body may grow for 25 years, and that every boy and girl should take Cod Liver Oil or Halibut Liver Oil in some form or other every day of their lives, until they are grown-up, in order that the skeleton of the body may be as strong and shapely as possible. The picture of a young girl with strong and graceful limbs, or of a grown-up son with a strong manly frame is readily appreciated by the mother, but it cannot be brought forward too often.

In the matter of the general care of their children, the mothers have nothing to learn from the mothers in towns, and if the present standard is maintained, as it is likely to be, in twenty years' time this Rural Area should have provided the country with a very strong and vigorous body of young men and women.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. J. EADY.

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1944

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection	46
Number of rooms disinfected	25
Number of library books disinfected	6
Number of library books destroyed	Nil

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by means of disinfectant fluid and formaldehyde lamps.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Infestation in private dwellings has not been heavy and has yielded to treatment with Zaldecide and other fluids.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.
FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The administration of the above Acts is carried out by the Worcestershire County Council.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Cowkeepers registered	...	...	...	...	199
Cowsheds registered	...	...	...	...	209
Producers (including Graded Milks) registered	...				194
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	15
Inspections	...	...	...	...	198
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	43
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	Nil

CONTRAVENTIONS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	...	6
Yards filled up and paved	...	...	...	...	7
Improvements to dairies	...	...	...	...	6
Limewashing and cleansing	...	...	...	...	76
Removal of Manure	...	...	...	...	15
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	9
New dairies provided	...	...	...	...	19
New drainage provided	...	...	...	...	11
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	16

The cowsheds and dairies of the Kidderminster District are, on the whole, well constructed and the producers are keen to take advantage of the fact to produce wholesome milk.

Despite the difficulties experienced through blackout, shortage of labour, etc., the standard of milk produced in the area has been maintained at a high level. Great credit is due to the producers, who have had to work very hard to achieve this result.

The greatest courtesy is shown to your Officers by all concerned and every opportunity is taken by the Farmers to co-operate whenever possible. The service of notice has never been necessary as all reasonable requests are met as soon as humanly possible.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	11
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register December, 1944	8
Inspections	24
Informal Notices served	Nil
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	Nil

Contraventions Remedied.

Limewashing	...	...	...	8
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	1

CANAL BOATS.

Number of boats inspected during 1944	...	...	8
Number of boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations			8
Number of boats infringing the Acts and Regulations	...		Nil
Total number for which the cabins were registered	...		8
Total number occupying the cabins	...	...	9
Details of occupants:—			
Male Adults	...	...	9
Female Adults	...	...	Nil
Children of School Age	...	...	Nil
Children under School Age	...	...	Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING.**House Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

This work is carried out by a Private Contractor, who uses a 3-ton lorry and 2 men.

The schedule of collection covers the following Parishes:—

Wolverley.

Churchill and Blakedown.

Chaddesley Corbett.

Certain emergency collections have been made in the Parishes of Stone, Kidderminster Foreign and Upper Arley.

The work is still hampered by the lack of sufficient ground for use as refuse tips, and but for the Council's foresight in purchasing land at Pan Shops Lane, Wolverley, the position would have become serious.

The Council have agreed that when the general situation has improved an investigation shall be made with a view to providing the best possible service for the whole district.

Collection.

Total number of loads removed ...	...	...	358
Estimated weight ...	...	...	716 tons

Disposal.

Churchill and Blakedown ...	...	...	144
Wolverley ...	...	...	199
Shatterford ...	...	...	15
Total			358 loads

Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village.

The work is done by a Local Contractor who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the Village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of Pail Closets emptied per week	78
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DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The closest co-operation is maintained between your Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, and myself in improving drainage systems throughout the district, and a considerable number were brought up to satisfactory standards.

The work is getting more difficult as time goes on owing to the fact that the Council's water schemes are rapidly covering the whole of the Rural District. The provision of a water supply automatically means an increase of sewage, and the absence of systems of sewerage means the overtaxing of the existing drainage systems.

As the Medical Officer of Health has reported, a Joint report on the situation was presented to the Council during the year and it was then decided to carry on with the preliminary work in those areas which suffer most acutely. The Council quite rightly placed the Parishes of Wolverley and Chaddesley Corbett at the head of the list for attention.

In the meantime such nuisances as arise are dealt with immediately and credit is due to the property owners, who agree, in most cases, quite readily to any proposal made by your Officers.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of large sites which were used for camping purposes (approximately)	20
Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	Nil
Estimated number of campers resident in the area at any one time during the summer, 1944	2500
Inspections made	49

During a tour of inspection of the camping sites during the first week in August, by a deputation of the Housing Committee, with the Medical Officer and myself, it was found that the sites were on the whole well controlled and that conditions with regard to overcrowding, sanitary accommodation and water supply, etc., were most satisfactory.

I feel it my duty to recommend that the Council should seriously consider the question of the issue of licences for camping grounds. As time goes on it becomes more difficult to keep adequate control of these sites as they are liable to be set up in any part of the district without the knowledge of your Officers.

WATER SUPPLY.**General.**

Number of samples submitted for analysis	14
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable	6
Number of samples found to be fit	8

Council's Borehole, Cookley.

Number of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	4
Number of samples found to be of good quality and fit for drinking	4

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition.

For specimens of Analyst's Reports, see Medical Officer of Health's Report.

COMPLAINTS.

Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	265
Summary of Complaints.				
Housing defects	...	...	...	75
Defective and choked drainage	...	...	...	79
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	111

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1944.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows:—

Number of premises inspected	...	...	...	938
Bakehouses	...	...	...	22
Canal Boats	...	...	...	8
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	49
Cowsheds	...	...	...	198
Dairies	...	...	...	206
Fried Fish Premises	...	...	...	9
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	46
Overcrowding	...	...	...	49
Premises where animals are kept	...	...	...	60
Schools	...	...	...	14
Water Courses	...	...	...	41
Water Supply	...	...	...	41
Workshops	...	...	...	1
Provision of Dustbins	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	156

LETTERS AND NOTICES ISSUED, ETC.

Number of letters and Informal Notices	...	...	367
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	8
Number of Nuisances dealt with	...	...	195

SANITARY WORK.**Interior of Houses.**

Dirty Houses improved and cleansed by tenant	...	21
Verminous Houses dealt with	...	16

Yards and Outbuildings.

Rainwater cisterns and pumps repaired or cleansed	...	6
Dirty yards and W.C.'s cleansed by tenants	...	25
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.	...	4

Drainage.

Yard gullies cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	35
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	...	...	58
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	29
New drains provided	...	...	...	14
Glazed stoneware gullies provided	...	...	...	41
New sink waste pipes provided, others repaired	...	...	...	6
Inspection chambers provided to drains	...	...	...	4
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	42
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	...	...	...	7
Glazed sinks provided	...	...	...	9
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	7

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected	...	...	...	7
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	2
Foul and obstructed W.C.'s cleansed	...	...	...	19
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	...	...	...	17
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	11
Water Closets provided with new basins and traps	...	...	...	2
Defective water supply to W.C.'s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	...	...	...	59

Conversions.

Conversion of privies to W.C.'s	1
Conversion of Pail Closets to W.C.'s	2

Urinals.

Urinals cleansed and repaired	7
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Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to Pail Closets	17
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Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	19
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants	15
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	7

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	...	...	...	35
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	9
Water courses cleansed	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	83
Nuisances on highways	...	...	...	3

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The Council having agreed to accept delegation of powers under the Act, it was decided to appoint Mr. J. Bunn as Destruction Officer. Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

No. of Infestations treated	No. retreated included in first column	Bait Bases Used	Poisons used	No. of Infestations where post bait takes occurred	Total No. of Bodies recovered	No. of Infestations cleared	No. reduced to Minor	No. of proposed retreatments
Reservoir Major 14 Minor 117	19	Sausage, Rusk and Bread Mash	Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, Red Squill & Cymag.	23	593	107	15	8 15

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Food, the sewers at Blakedown were treated during the year with satisfactory results.

Co-operation with other Authorities.

Bewdley Borough.

An amicable arrangement was made during the year whereby the services of Mr. Bunn would be loaned to them when necessary at an agreed charge. This arrangement is working very satisfactorily.

Worcestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that I was appointed as a member of this Committee, which has done very useful work during the year.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given me by the whole of the Council during a year made difficult by war conditions.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. A. S. Rew, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Sanitary Inspector.

